

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 800

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the Freed-Hardeman University women's basketball team on winning the school's first NAIA Division I National Championship.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary student athletes who have attained the pinnacle of competition, thus bringing honor and acclaim to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Freed-Hardeman University (FHU) Lady Lions, coached by the legendary Dale Neal, recently won the first NAIA Division I Women's Basketball National Championship in school history, finally taking home the ultimate trophy while playing in their twenty-second consecutive tournament, seventh Fab Four, and second championship game; and

WHEREAS, a trio of Lady Lions were instrumental in FHU's victory over Westmont College in the championship game, combining for 69 of the team's 76 total points; Sandrea Sylman led the way with 24 points; Kim Mallory followed closely behind with 23 points; and Carrie Hatchel came off the bench to contribute a season-high 22 points; and

WHEREAS, these three Lady Lions were deservedly lionized following the championship game; Kim Mallory was named Most Outstanding Player for the Championship; Sandrea Sylman was a First Team All-Tournament selection; and Carrie Hatchel was named to the Second Team All-Tournament team; and

WHEREAS, Kim Mallory averaged 15 points and 7 rebounds per game during her incredible senior season and scored the 1,560th point of her career to rank 15th in program history; and

WHEREAS, Sandra Sylman averaged a team-leading 16.3 points per game during her junior season and was a First Team All-Conference Performer for the American Midwest Conference selection; and

WHEREAS, junior Carrie Hatchel saved the best for last, as she scored 22 points in two NAIA Tournament games; she also averaged nearly 10 points per game for the season coming off the bench; and

WHEREAS, the remaining FHU players were also instrumental in posting an excellent 34-4 record on the way to the NAIA National Championship and include Rebekah Hammond, Taylor Ferris, Gabrielle Nicholson, Kaylie Pope, Haylee Croom, Jamie Crum, Alyssa LeMay, Tiffany Pate, Morgan Warren, Reagen Floyd, and Tatum Russell; and

WHEREAS, FHU was fortunate to have the leadership, vision, and basketball acumen of Coach Dale Neal, who was named 2018 Coach of the Year at the conclusion of his twenty-fourth season at the school; and

WHEREAS, FHU has attained an incredible level of success and consistency during Coach Neal's tenure; the Lady Lions are one of only two programs to have won at least 20 games and competed in the NAIA National Championship every year; and

WHEREAS, the entire Freed-Hardeman community is very proud of the Lady Lions and their 2017-2018 championship season, and so are the members of this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the Freed-Hardeman University women's basketball team on winning the first NAIA Division I National Championship in school history, commend their unwavering excellence, and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success next season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.